

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION

DWAINE FLOWERS, on his own behalf
and all similarly situated individuals,

Plaintiff,

CIVIL ACTION

FILE NO.: 1:14-cv-1228-ODE

v.

PROTECT SECURITY LLC,
a Georgia for Profit Corporation and
GEORGE JONES, Individually,

Defendants

COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff, DWAIN FLOWERS ("Plaintiff"), on behalf of himself and other employees and former employees similarly situated, by and through undersigned counsel, files this Complaint against Defendants, PROTECT SECURITY LLC. ("PROTECT"), a Georgia Profit Corporation, GEORGE JONES ("JONES"), individually, (collectively, "Defendants") and states as follows:

JURISDICTION

1. Jurisdiction in this Court is proper as the claims are brought pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, as amended (29 U.S.C. §201, et seq., hereinafter called the "FLSA") to recover unpaid overtime wages, minimum wages, an additional equal amount as liquidated damages, obtain declaratory relief, and reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

2. The jurisdiction of the Court over this controversy is based upon 29 U.S.C. §216(b).

PARTIES

3. At all times material hereto, Plaintiff was, and continues to be a resident of Henry County, Georgia.

4. At all times material hereto PROTECT was a Georgia Profit Corporation. Further, at all times material hereto, PROTECT was engaged in business in Fulton County, Georgia.

5. At all times material hereto PROTECT provided security services, through its contracts with third-party commercial customers.

6. At all times relevant to this action, JONES was an individual resident of the State of Georgia.

7. At all times relevant to this action, JONES owned PROTECT.

8. At all times relevant to this action, JONES managed and operated PROTECT.

9. At all times relevant to this action, JONES regularly exercised the authority hire and fire employees of PROTECT.

10. At all times relevant to this action, JONES determined the work schedules for the employees of PROTECT.

11. At all times relevant to this action, JONES controlled the finances and operations PROTECT.

12. At all times relevant to this action, JONES was an employer as defined by 29 U.S.C. 201 et. seq.

13. At all times relevant to this action, JONES handled payroll and controlled timekeeping for PROTECT.

14. At all times relevant to this action, JONES was an employer as defined by 29 U.S.C. 201 et. seq.

15. At all times material hereto, Plaintiff was “engaged in commerce” within the meaning of §6 and §7 of the FLSA.

16. At all times material hereto, Plaintiff was an “employee” of Defendants within the meaning of FLSA.

17. At all times material hereto, Defendants were the “employers” within the meaning of FLSA.

18. Defendants were, and continue to be, “employers” within the meaning of FLSA.

19. At all times material hereto, Defendants were, and continue to be, an “enterprise engaged in commerce” within the meaning of FLSA.

20. At all times material hereto, Defendants were, and continue to be, an enterprise engaged in the “production of goods for commerce” within the meaning of the FLSA.

21. Based upon information and belief, the annual gross revenue of Defendants was in excess of \$500,000.00 per annum during the relevant time periods.

22. At all times material hereto, Defendants had two (2) or more employees handling, selling, or otherwise working on goods or materials that had been moved in or produced for commerce including flashlights, cell phones, service vehicles, walkie talkies and uniforms.

23. At all times material hereto, Plaintiff was “engaged in commerce” and subject to individual coverage of the FLSA.

24. At all times material hereto, Plaintiff was engaged in the “production of goods for commerce” and subject to the individual coverage of the FLSA.

25. The additional persons who may become plaintiffs in this action are/were non-exempt “security officers” employees of Defendants, who held similar positions to Plaintiff and who worked in excess of forty (40) hours during one or more work weeks during the relevant time periods but who did not receive pay at one and one-half times their regular rate for their hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours and/or who were not paid at least minimum wage in one or more workweeks while employed by Defendants.

26. At all times material hereto, the work performed by the Plaintiff was directly essential to the business performed by Defendants.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

27. On or about April of 2013, Defendants hired Plaintiff to work as a non-exempt “Security Officer.”

28. At various material times hereto, Plaintiff worked for Defendants in excess of forty (40) hours within a work week.

29. From at least April of 2013 and continuing through February of 2014, Defendants failed to compensate Plaintiff at rate of one and one-half times Plaintiff’s regular rate for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in a single work week. Plaintiff should be compensated at the rate of one and one-half times Plaintiff’s regular rate for those hours that Plaintiff worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week as required by the FLSA.

30. From at least April of 2013 and continuing through February of 2014,

Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff at least federal minimum wage for all weeks worked.

31. Defendants have violated Title 29 U.S.C. §206 and 207 from at least April of 2013 and continuing through February of 2014, in that:

- a. Plaintiff worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week for the period of employment with Defendants;
- b. No payments, and provisions for payment, have been made by Defendants to properly compensate Plaintiff at the statutory rate of one and one-half times Plaintiff's regular rate for those hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per work week as provided by the FLSA;
- c. Defendants' failed to pay Plaintiff at least minimum wage for all hours worked in violation of the FLSA; and
- d. Defendants have failed to maintain proper time records as mandated by the FLSA.

32. Plaintiff has retained the law firm of MORGAN & MORGAN, P.A. to represent Plaintiff in the litigation and has agreed to pay the firm a reasonable fee for its services.

COUNT I
RECOVERY OF OVERTIME COMPENSATION

33. Plaintiff re-alleges and re-avers paragraphs 1 through 32 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

34. From at least April of 2013 and continuing through February of 2014, Plaintiff worked in excess of the forty (40) hours per week for which Plaintiff was not compensated at the statutory rate of one and one-half times Plaintiff's regular rate of

pay.

35. Plaintiff was, and is entitled to be paid at the statutory rate of one and one-half times Plaintiff's regular rate of pay for those hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours.

36. At all times material hereto, Defendants failed to maintain proper time records as mandated by the FLSA.

37. Defendants' actions were willful and/or showed reckless disregard for the provisions of the FLSA as evidenced by its failure to compensate Plaintiff at the statutory rate of one and one-half times Plaintiff's regular rate of pay for the hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per weeks when it knew, or should have known, such was, and is due.

38. Defendants have repeatedly been sued by other security officers based on identical violations of the FLSA, and have persisted in their violations of the FLSA nonetheless.

39. Defendants have failed to properly disclose or apprise Plaintiff of Plaintiff's rights under the FLSA.

40. Due to the intentional, willful, and unlawful acts of Defendants, Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer damages and lost compensation for time worked over forty (40) hours per week, plus liquidated damages.

41. Plaintiff is entitled to an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b).

42. At all times material hereto, Defendants failed to comply with Title 29 and United States Department of Labor Regulations, 29 C.F.R. §§516.2 and 516.4, with

respect to those similarly situated to the named Plaintiff by virtue of the management policy, plan or decision that intentionally provided for inadequate overtime compensation of such employees at a rate less than time and a half for their overtime hours.

43. Based upon information and belief, the employees and former employees of Defendants similarly situated to Plaintiff were not paid for all hours worked, and to the extent such hours, if properly credited to Plaintiff, would have credited Plaintiff with more than forty (40) or more hours in a work week, Defendants have failed to properly pay Plaintiff, and those similarly situated to him, proper overtime wages at time and a half their regular rate of pay for such hours

COUNT II
RECOVERY OF MINIMUM WAGES (FLSA)

44. Plaintiff reincorporates and readopts all allegations contained within Paragraphs 1-43 above.

45. Plaintiff was entitled to be paid the applicable federal minimum wage for each week Plaintiff worked during Plaintiff's employment with Defendants.

46. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff the federal minimum wage for each week Plaintiff worked for Defendants.

47. Plaintiff has demanded proper compensation for one or more weeks of work with Defendants, but Defendants have refused and/or failed to compensate Plaintiff for same. As a result of Defendants' actions in this regard, Plaintiff has not been paid the federal minimum wage during one or more weeks of employment with Defendants.

48. Defendants had specific knowledge that they were paying sub-minimum

wages to Plaintiff, but still failed to pay Plaintiff at least minimum wages.

49. Defendants willfully failed to pay Plaintiff the federal minimum wage for one or more weeks of work contrary to 29 U.S.C. § 206.

50. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' deliberate underpayment of wages, Plaintiff has been damaged in the loss of minimum wages for one or more weeks of work with Defendants.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that judgment be entered in his favor against Defendants:

- a. Declaring, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §§2201 and 2202, that the acts and practices complained of herein are in violation of the maximum hour and minimum wage provisions of the FLSA;
- b. Awarding Plaintiff overtime compensation in the amount due to him for Plaintiff's time worked in excess of forty (40) hours per work week;
- c. Awarding Plaintiff liquidated damages in an amount equal to the overtime award;
- d. Awarding Plaintiff minimum wages in the amount due to him for Plaintiff's time worked in each work week;
- e. Awarding Plaintiff liquidated damages in an amount equal to the minimum wages award;
- f. Awarding Plaintiff reasonable attorney's fees and costs and expenses of the litigation pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b);
- g. Awarding Plaintiff pre-judgment interest;

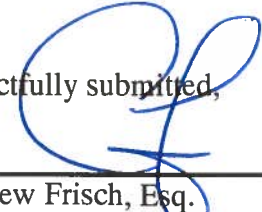
- h. Granting Plaintiff an Order, on an expedited basis, allowing him to send Notice of this action, pursuant to 216(b) and/or FRCP 23, to those similarly situated to Plaintiff; and
- i. Ordering any other further relief the Court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands trial by jury on all issues so triable as a matter of right by jury.

DATED this 24 day of April, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,



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